

THANKSGIVING 2001 *Message*



***To all of you,
the dedicated men
and women of the
U.S. Army
— uniformed and
civilian — we offer
special thanks
for the difficult
and dangerous work
that you are doing
for the citizens
of our great nation.***

Each year, Thanksgiving affords soldiers an important opportunity to pause and enjoy a day of rest, relaxation, and fellowship with family and friends. This year, those treasured moments are even more meaningful — more important — as we also remember our fallen comrades and bind the wounds of the Sept. 11 acts of war our nation endured.

The sacrifices made by so many Americans during those attacks lead us to appreciate and hold even more dearly the benefits of living and working in a free society — benefits afforded all Americans because of our loyal, courageous, and dedicated Army.

And so on this special day, we offer our appreciation to you, the soldiers and civilians of the Army, who serve our nation with a level of devotion and selfless service unequalled in any other profession. You walk point for our nation 24 hours a day, uphold freedom's torch as you willingly step forward to defend the American people from all enemies, and animate the values and principles we hold so dear.

Thanksgiving is also a time for families to join for celebration and reunions throughout our country. Families have long provided strength and values to our soldiers, our Army and our nation. It is only right that we acknowledge our appreciation for them, so this year we celebrate Military Family Week, Nov. 18-25.

During this week, we recognize the vital contributions of Army family members. We know we do not soldier alone. For just as soldiers sacrifice and dedicate themselves to honorable service, their families also sacrifice and make invaluable contributions to the well being of our Army and nation. Our thoughts and prayers are also with soldiers away from the comforts and joys of home and family, over 150,000 deployed and forward stationed in more than 120 countries.

We give you our thanks, and a grateful nation thanks you as well.

We are proud of the Army family! And so to all of you, the dedicated men and women of the U.S. Army — uniformed and civilian — we offer special thanks for the difficult and dangerous work that you are doing for the citizens of our great nation. We wish all of you and your loved ones a safe and happy Thanksgiving holiday.

Eric H. Daniel — *Thomas E. White*

